

## Gifted or Goof Off? Fact and Fiction of the Famous

By Nancy Polette

The book presents 30 mini biographies of well known individuals past and present. These individuals represent writers, entertainers, musicians, sports figures, and inventors. It also includes presidents and military and world leaders such as Winston Churchill.

Each mini biography is one page. It provides some basic information about the person. In addition to information about the individual's contribution to the country/world, it also provides a "quirky" or unusual piece of information about that individual. The biographical page also contains a caricature of the individual.

To whom would this book appeal? It appeals to elementary level students between fourth and fifth grades. The combination of the easily read text and caricatures would probably capture their attention. The unusual snippets of information would capture their interest. It would serve to spur further in depth research by a student who could use this as a springboard for further exploration, presentation or even role play. The sky could become the limit for further exploration.

This one book of 30 mini biographies could be a great source of ideas for any teacher in any classroom. It can be used in several subject areas. The possibilities are just about endless!

Sonia Johnson